

Welcome to the first issue of Renton Now, the City of Renton's newsletter. This newsletter will be mailed to you with your utility bill and will provide information on news, events, city programs, and more. It will also be posted on our website at [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). We look forward to your feedback so please send us an email with your suggestions, and let us know what else you'd like to read about. Email us at [RentonNow@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:RentonNow@ci.renton.wa.us).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Renton Engages Residents about Emergency Preparedness

On May 22, the City of Renton held a community forum to discuss emergency preparedness and to provide citizens the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of city staff, along with members from Puget Sound Energy, the American Red Cross, and neighborhood CERT teams. During the forum, the City's new emergency management director, Deborah Needham, was introduced to the community.

### Renton's Economy Powers Forward

Renton's economic forecast predicts a continued vibrant economy. Renton's taxable retail sales are projected to increase by 6.9 percent this year and will outstrip King County's rate of increase in the next few years. Renton's housing stock has increased by almost 20% since 2000. The number of jobs jumped sharply in 2006 and will continue to increase. Annual production at Boeing will be the highest since the late 1990s.

### Renton Receives Diamond Award from Commuter Challenge

Renton was recognized by Commuter Challenge for its efforts to reduce commute trips and encourage employees to walk, bike, carpool, or use transit. Diamond Award winners represent the top tier of the county worksites with effective commuter trip reduction programs.

### Renton Police Officer Larry Strauss Awarded Medal of Honor

On May 4 Officer Larry Strauss received the Washington State Law Enforcement Medal of Honor from Gov. Christine Gregoire for courage in the line of duty. He is the first officer from Renton Police Department to receive the honor.

## HIGHLANDS TASK FORCE

The City of Renton and the Highlands community came together last fall to create a Highlands Task Force and work toward a common goal for the community. The City Council adopted the recommendations recently made by the task force on the comprehensive plan and zoning code. The city is establishing a Phase II Task Force to review the city's current land use policies, as well as to focus on parks, other public facilities, and public safety, and to make recommendations about the types of services and amenities it would like the city to provide. For information about the Task Force, visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov).



View of Coulton Memorial Beach Park

## HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Renton helps homeowners who have low to moderate incomes maintain their homes. These free services focused on health and safety are provided to city residents to help keep housing affordable and neighborhoods attractive and safe. Eligibility guidelines are listed below. For program information or an application call 425-430-6650 or go to [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov) and search for HRAP.

Families of the following sizes with the corresponding annual income qualify for this program.

### Family Size : Max. Annual Income

1 : \$41,700	2 : \$47,700
3 : \$53,650	4 : \$59,600

## SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The City of Renton and the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will be working on several projects in the area this summer. We will provide updates and more information as project details and schedules are determined. Here's a look at what's planned.

### I-405:

In July, WSDOT will begin construction of an additional lane in each direction between I-5 and SR 167.

### SR 167:

In July, WSDOT will be adding a southbound lane between I-405 and SW 41st St. They will also continue work between I-405 and Auburn, converting HOV lanes to HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes.

### SR 169:

In late summer, the city will be widening Maple Valley Hwy. from I-405 to the old Stoneway property. This will greatly improve access from northbound I-405 to SR 169.

### SR 900:

WSDOT will be re-paving Sunset Blvd. between Lake Washington Blvd. and Harrington Rd. during the last half of 2007.

### Downtown Renton:

WSDOT will be relocating a water main on Talbot Road between Sam's Club and the I-405 overpass.

Burlington Northern (BNSF) will be replacing three railroad bridges that go across Hardie Ave., Rainier Ave., and Shattuck Ave. This project will last from August through December. WSDOT will also be replacing the BNSF railroad bridge over the Cedar River during this same time.

Updates for these projects will be available on the city's website.

## NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED

Since 2005, there has been a total ban on the use, sale, and possession of any fireworks within the city limits of Renton. Violators are subject to both criminal and civil citations, based on the offense. Fines can range from \$100 to \$500. We encourage citizens to view the public fireworks display at Gene Coulon Memorial Park on July 4th.

### Statewide Stats: Pre-Fireworks Ban

- 244 fireworks related injuries
- 8 amputations caused by fireworks
- 1,072 fires from fireworks
- \$4 million damage from fireworks related fires

### City of Renton Stats: 2005-2006

- No reported injuries
- \$1,300 property loss

## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

**Saturday, June 16 Skyhoundz Exhibition.** 10am. Alpo Canine Frisbee Championship. Free. Cedar River Park. 425-430-6700. **Henry Moses Aquatic Center** opens. Noon-8pm. 425-430-6780. **Heritage Park Dedication.** 11am-1pm. Activities and refreshments provided. 425-430-6600.

**Every Tuesday** through September 18. **Farmers Market.** 3pm-7pm. RentonFarmersMarket.com.

**Saturday, June 23 Coulon and Kennydale Swimming Beaches open.** Noon to 8pm. 425-430-6700. **Neighborhood Cleanup Event.** Participating neighborhood associations. June 23-24. 425-430-7397.

**Wednesday, June 27 Coulon Kidd Valley Family Concert.** 7pm. Free. Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

**Saturday, June 30 Load Zone Neighbor-to-Nighbor Curbside Clean-up Program.** 425-430-7397.

**Wednesday, July 4 Revo 225's Fabulous Fourth of July and Fireworks.** Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

**Saturday, July 7 Outdoor Cinema Grease.** Seating begins at 7pm; movie starts at dusk. Liberty Park, downtown. 425-430-6700.

**Wednesday, July 11 Coulon Kidd Valley Family Concert.** 7pm. Free. Coulon Memorial Beach Park.

**Thursday, July 12 Picnic Pizzazz Kids' Entertainment Series.** Noon-1pm. Free. Kiwanis Park.

## RENTON SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER NEWS

The Renton Senior Activity Center offers activities for adults 50 and up. A full listing of all the activity center's services and activities can be found in their Golden Opportunities brochure. Below are examples of opportunities not to be missed. For more information, call 425-430-6633 or visit [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). The center is located at 211 Burnett Ave. N.

### Fitness

Aerobics, chair exercise, co-ed softball (spring), fitness hour, hiking group, tai chi, walking group, strength & balance

### Creative Arts

Bunka embroidery, ceramics, colored pencil, oil painting, scrapbooking, water color, woodcarving

### Educational Classes

Book club, computer classes, financial seminars, legal services, piano/key-board class, support groups

### Dance

Ballroom dance, Friday dinner/dance, line dancing, Mid-Eastern dance, tap dance, Hawaiian dance

### Games

Billiards, bocce ball, bridge, cribbage, mah-jongg, pinochle

### Other Services

Blood pressure check, meals on wheels, nutrition program, transportation, trips & tours, volunteer opportunities

## CITY CONTACTS

Area Code 425

**General Information** ..... 430-6400

**Mayor** ..... 430-6500

**City Council** ..... 430-6501

**Municipal Court Judge..** 430-6550

**Chief Administrative Officer**  
..... 430-6500

**City Clerk** ..... 430-6510

**Code Enforcement** ..... 430-7373

**Community Services** ..... 430-6600

**Economic Development,  
Neighborhoods, & Strategic  
Planning** ..... 430-6575

**Emergencies** ..... **911**

**Finance & Information Services**  
..... 430-6850

**Fire/Emergency Services**  
..... 430-7000

**Human Resources & Risk  
Management** ..... 430-7650

**Planning/Building/Public Works**  
..... 430-7200

**Police** ..... 430-7500  
or [epolice.rentonwa.gov](http://epolice.rentonwa.gov)

[www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov)

